

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
FOR
THE MISSOURI YOUNG FARMERS ASSOCIATION**

CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name and Purposes

Section A: The name of this association shall be the Missouri Young Farmers Association. Members are hereinafter referred to as Missouri Young Farmers.

Section B: This association is formed for educational purposes with particular emphasis on agricultural education.

Article II - Organization

Section A: The Missouri Young Farmers Association is an organization of individuals who are interested in agriculture. It shall consist of local associations chartered by the State Association. District associations may be organized.

1. A local association shall be composed of members from one or more school districts.
2. District Associations: Local associations within a vocational agriculture teacher district may organize a district association. If a district association is organized, it shall consist of all local associations in the district.

Section B: The fiscal year for this association shall be February 1 through January 31.

Section C: Local associations may become and remain affiliated with the State Association by complying with the procedure outlined in the bylaws.

Section D: The National Young Farmer Educational Association (NYFEA) is a national organization and The Missouri Young Farmers Association is a state organization with individual membership. Members selected from the State Executive Committee serve as delegates to the national organization.

Article III - Membership

Section A: The membership of this association shall be of two kinds:

- 1) Active
- 2) Honorary

Section B: Active Membership -- Any person past high school with an interest in agriculture is eligible to become an active member of the local association.

Section C: Honorary Membership -- Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Missouri Young Farmers Association, and to the general improvement of agricultural conditions, may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the state executive

committee.

Article IV - Officers

Section A: Local Officers: The officers of the local association shall be: President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and reporter. Other officers may be elected if desired. Officers shall be elected annually.

Section C: State Officers: Each vocational agriculture district in Missouri, having at least one active association, shall select one young farmer to serve as a state officer. State officers shall serve a term of two years. A district officer may serve consecutive terms if necessary, to fill a vacancy on the executive board, not to exceed two consecutive terms. Each even numbered district shall elect one state officer in even numbered years to serve two years, and each odd numbered district shall elect one state officer in odd numbered years to serve two years. Each district shall determine how its district officer is selected. Districts shall be numbered as follows: Northwest - 1; Northeast - 2; Central - 3; Southwest - 4; South Central - 5; and Southeast - 6.

1. President: The assembled delegates at the state convention shall elect a president for a one-year term. The president shall have served the previous year as a state officer. No person may serve two successive years as president. Qualified officers desiring to be considered for president will be permitted to appear before the delegates.
2. Vice Presidents: The remaining officers shall be called vice presidents. The officers shall select from the vice presidents individuals to serve as 1st vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel.
3. Filling Vacancies: If for any reason an office becomes vacant, the area from which the vacancy occurs shall select a replacement. If the office cannot be filled within that district, then a member from another district can be elected to fill the position for the full two-year term by the delegate body.

Section D: Advisor (or Advisors):

1. Local Advisors: The local association shall elect an advisor (or advisors). The advisor (or advisors) shall be a teacher of vocational agriculture in a public school.
2. State Advisor: The Director of Agricultural Education, State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Jefferson City, Missouri, shall serve as state advisor.
3. District Advisors: District supervisors of vocational agriculture shall serve as district advisors of district associations.

Section E: Executive Secretary: The state advisor may appoint a staff member to serve as executive secretary to the State Association.

Article V - Executive Committee

Section A: Composition of the State Executive Committee: The state executive committee shall be composed of the state officers and the immediate past president.

Section B: Ex-Officio Members: Ex-Officio members of the executive committee shall be composed of the following:

1. The state advisor and executive secretary.
2. The president of the Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association or a member of the MVATA executive committee so designated.
3. One district supervisor of vocational agriculture appointed annually by the state advisor.
4. Two staff members representing the teacher training department of agricultural education appointed annually by the state advisor after consultation with the department head.

Ex-Officio members shall not have the right to vote.

Section C: The executive committee shall conduct the business of the State Association, subject to such regulations, bylaws, and state programs of work as have been adopted by delegates.

Section D: A voting quorum for the executive committee shall consist of at least four voting members of the committee. A quorum must be present at any meeting at which business is transacted or a vote taken making recommendations to the association.

Section E: Regular meetings of the executive committee shall be held twice each year other than the convention meeting. The time and place shall be determined by the president and/or the advisor.

Article VI - Meetings

Section A: A convention of the Missouri Young Farmers shall be held annually at a time and place to be determined by the state executive committee.

Section B: Each association may have two voting delegates to the state convention.

Section C: Parliamentary procedure at all meetings of this association shall in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VII - Dues

Section A: Annual membership dues in the State Association shall be set by voting delegates present at the convention.

Section B: The membership year shall be from July 1 through June 30.

Section C: The dues of any local association shall be fixed by the association executive committee, subject to approval of a majority vote of the active members of the association.

Section D: The membership dues in the National Association shall be set by the National Delegate Assembly.

Article VIII - Emblem and Colors

Section A: The outline of the emblem shall be the cross section of an ear of corn centered with the map of Missouri depicting leading agricultural enterprises and activities. An educational institution shall occupy the center of the map surrounded by a hog in the Northwest corner, a tractor in the Northeast, a cow in the Southwest, and a crop in the Southeast. The words, "*Missouri Young Farmers Association - Agriculture and Education - Hub of the Nation*," shall surround the map of Missouri.

Section B: Emblems shall be uniform in all associations in the state.

Section C: The colors of the Young Farmers of Missouri shall be corn gold and national blue.

Section D: The colors for local associations shall be the same as those adopted by the State Association.

Article IX - Amendments

Section A: Proposed amendments to the state constitution or bylaws must be submitted in writing by authorized representatives of a local association to the state executive committee, be reviewed by that committee, and, together with their recommendations, be submitted by them to delegates in state convention. Amendments to the state constitution or bylaws may be adopted at any state convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

Section B: The state executive committee shall submit the proposed amendment to each chapter in the state no later than January 1 of the year it is to be presented to the delegates at the state convention.

Article X - Dissolution of Assets

In the event of dissolution, assets of the association shall be utilized exclusively for charitable or educational purposes as determined by a majority vote of the delegates in session.

BYLAWS

Article I - Duties of Officers

Section A: Presidents:

1. State President: It shall be the duty of the Missouri Young Farmers President to preside at all meetings of the State Association of the Missouri Young Farmers and to serve as chairman of the state executive committee. The president shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees. The president shall call a state convention each year at the time and place selected by the executive committee.
2. Local or District Presidents: Local or district presidents shall perform the duties and have the responsibilities customarily delegated to presidents.

Section B: Vice Presidents:

1. State 1st Vice President: It shall be the duty of the state officer designated 1st vice president to preside at all meetings of the association in the absence of the president and assist the president at all times in carrying on the work of the association.
2. Local Vice President: It shall be the duty of the local vice presidents to perform the duties customarily assigned to vice presidents.

Section C: Secretaries:

1. State Secretary: It shall be the duty of the state vice president designated secretary to see that minutes of the State Association and executive committee meetings are kept, properly distributed, and permanently filed. The secretary shall perform other duties normally pertaining to the office of secretary.
2. Local Secretaries: The local secretaries shall perform the duties normally associated with the office of secretary and other as may be prescribed by their respective associations.

Section D: Treasurers:

1. The State Treasurer: The vice president designated as state treasurer shall be responsible for the funds and assets of the State Association. The treasurer shall see that correct and complete books and records of accounts concerning all financial transactions of the State Association are maintained. The treasurer shall present to the State Association at the state convention an annual financial statement on the condition of the state treasury.
2. Local Treasurer: The local treasurers shall perform the duties of the office as prescribed by their respective associations.

Section E: Reporter: It shall be the duty of the reporters to report promptly and correctly items of local, state, or national interest relating to Young Farmer work to radio, television, newspapers, and other publications.

Section F: Sentinel: It shall be the duty of the sentinel to set up the rooms for the state convention and assist in seating the delegates. The sentinel shall be responsible for all invocations at state meetings and shall introduce guests or see that they are introduced at all state meetings of the association.

Section G: State Advisor: The duties of the state advisor are as follows:

1. To serve as an ex-officio member of the executive committee and all other committees, and to advise the officers and members of the association, executive committee, and other committees on matters of policy and on matters regarding the welfare of the association
2. Shall advise and assist in setting up and carrying out the program of work and all other activities sponsored or participated in the association.
3. The state advisor shall have authority to designate a member of the staff of vocational agriculture to serve as executive secretary of the State Association.
4. The state advisor shall see that all legal matters regarding the organization are in order.

5. The state advisor shall be responsible for maintaining a permanent record of the minutes of association and executive committee meetings, charters, membership, and other business of a statewide nature.

Section H: Executive Secretary: The executive secretary shall serve as an ex-officio member of the executive committee and all other committees. The executive secretary shall perform such duties as prescribed by the state advisor, or by the executive committee with the approval of the advisor.

The executive secretary, in general, shall carry out the details of the state program as directed by the state advisor.

Section I: District Advisors: District advisors shall serve under supervision of the state advisor. They shall perform such duties as may be by the state advisor in promoting and carrying out Young Farmer programs in their respective districts.

Article II - Committees

Section A: The president of the Missouri Young Farmers Association shall appoint all state committees annually. The committees shall include the auditing committee, program of work committee, and other committees as determined by the executive committee.

Section B: The auditing committee shall examine annually the books of the treasurer and report their findings to the delegate body assembled in state convention.

Section C: The program of work committee shall set up the objectives and goals of the State Association and suggest ways and means of attaining them.

Article III - Procedures

Section A: Issuing Charters to Associations: Local associations of the Missouri Young Farmers shall apply to the state advisor for affiliation with the State Association. Such application shall be signed by the local Young Farmer Association president and secretary. An association must have a minimum of eight members to be eligible for a charter.

The following material must accompany the application for a charter:

1. A copy of the proposed constitution and bylaws.
2. A copy of the annual program of work.
3. A list of active members.
4. Names and addresses of the local association officers.

A charter shall be granted by the state advisor provided the proposed constitution is not in conflict with the constitution of the Missouri Young Farmers Association, and that it otherwise meets the standards established for the Missouri Young Farmers. The charter will be signed by the state president, the state secretary, the executive secretary, and the state advisor of the Missouri Young Farmers Association.

The delegates to any state convention shall have the power to suspend association charters upon

receipt of evidence of infringement on provisions of the state constitution.

Section B: Determining Standing of Associations:

A local or district association of Young Farmers shall be considered in good standing with the Missouri Young Farmers Association provided the following general conditions are met:

1. The local association constitution is not in conflict with state constitution.
2. The activities of the association are in harmony with the purposes of the State Association.
3. All current reports are submitted to the state president as requested.
4. Membership dues are paid. (Minimum of eight members)

In the event a local association is not in good standing at the time of the opening of the state convention, the delegates in the convention shall have the power, on the recommendation of the state executive committee, to withdraw or suspend its charter and refuse such local association official representation at the annual state convention. When, and if, such action is taken the members of the local association in question shall be denied the regular privileges of the association. By meeting the requirements of good standing, a local association may be reinstated by action of the state executive committee, not earlier than ten days after the close of the state convention during which it was not in good standing.

Section C: Determining Standing of Members: A member is considered to be in good standing provided:

1. They attend meetings regularly. (Except members in military service)
2. They show an interest and take part in the affairs of the local association.
3. They pay local and state dues as specified by the association.

Article IV - Special Meetings

Section A: Special meetings of the state executive committee shall be held at such time and place as determined by the state president or advisor, or four voting members of the executive committee.

Section B: Special meetings of the State Association may be called at any time by the state president with the approval of the executive committee.